

Message Text

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FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEHRAN, HONG KONG,
TOKYO, CANBERRA, CAPE TOWN, BRASILIA, TEL AVIV, OTTAWA, ROME,
LONDON, BUENOS AIRES, MOSCOW, PARIS, TAIPEI, PEKING, GENEVA,
FROM BONN MAY 20:

QUOTE S E C R E T BONN 08038

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN, PARM, GW

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR TESTING AND FRG NPT RATIFICATION

REF: STATE 104647

BEGIN SUMMARY: GERMANS MAY VOICE REGRET TO INDIA VIA
FAIRLY LOW KEY DIPLOMATIC DEMARCHE BUT INDIAN TESTING OF
NUCLEAR DEVICE IS, BY ITSELF, UNLIKELY TO ALTER GERMAN
INTENTION TO DEPOSIT INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF NPT.
END SUMMARY

1. REACTION - WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT CAN HARDLY WELCOME
INDIAN TESTING OF NUCLEAR DEVICE COMING ONLY SEVERAL
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WEEKS AFTER FRG HAS CONCLUDED PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION

OF NPT. SOME CDU/CSU OPPOSITION DEPUTIES MADE MAJOR POINT DURING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES THAT FRG SHOULD DEFER RATIFICATION PENDING DECISIONS BY ITALY, JAPAN, INDIA, ISRAEL, EGYPT AND OTHER POTENTIAL NUCLEAR POWERS. GERMAN GOVERNMENT WENT FORWARD, LAYING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON U.S. DESIRE FOR EARLY FRG RATIFICATION.

2. FRG MEASURES AND U.S. STANCE - WE EXPECT THAT FRG MAY EXPRESS FAIRLY LOW KEY REGRETS TO INDIA THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. SHOULD U.S. MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT OF REGRETS, FRG COULD WELL DO THE SAME.

3. EFFECTS - FRG HAS TREATY OBLIGATIONS NOT TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, AND ALL WEST GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES STATED CLEARLY DURING BUNDESTAG RATIFICATION DEBATE THAT FRG SHOULD NOT SEEK ITS OWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. INDIAN NUCLEAR TESTING, BY ITSELF, IS UNLIKELY TO ALTER GERMAN INTENTION TO DEPOSIT INSTRUMENTS OF NPT RATIFICATION. HOWEVER, DELAY COULD ENSUE IN FRG DEPOSIT OF NPT RATIFICATION INSTRUMENTS SHOULD INDIAN TESTING HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON INTENTIONS OF ITALY OR OTHER NEAR NUCLEAR POWERS.

4. PRESS COVERAGE - MOST MAY 20 GERMAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED FRONTPAGE REPORTS ON THE INDIAN EXPLOSION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE. THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE CARRIED A REPORT BY JAN REIFENBERG SAYING WASHINGTON QUARTERS CONSIDER INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST A "DANGEROUS EXAMPLE OF UNDESIRABLE SPREADING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS" AND AS "THE BEGINNING OF A SHIFT IN THE BALANCE OF POWER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IN FAVOR OF THE USSR". HILLENBRAND UNQUOTE
RUSH

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NNN

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